

Torrance, California
June 24, 1941

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, June 24, 1941 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. Absent; Councilmen: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of June 10, 1941 be amended as follows: the motion authorizing L. J. Gilmeister, Manager Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, to enter into contract with Maynard-Boyce, Inc., Transportation Advertising firm, for advertising service on the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines be changed to read "the City of Torrance to enter into contract with Maynard-Boyce, Inc., Transportation Advertising firm, for advertising service on the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines," and that the minutes of June 10, 1941 be approved as amended. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Donald Findley, Counselor-at-Law, regarding the water situation in the North Torrance area, the situation being that the water supply of approximately sixteen residents of North Torrance has been cut off by collapse of the Crown Water Company, it being necessary to obtain water for the consumers immediately. It was pointed out that the School Board will allow the consumers to use water from the Prairie Avenue School after the close of the summer semester, but that the School Board must have the assurance that the City will take whatever steps are necessary to relieve the School Board of the responsibility of supplying water after September 1, 1941.

Two methods of procedure to aid the North Torrance people in this urgent matter were mentioned, one being for the City to drill a well on property owned by the Crown Water Company, said property to be acquired by a mutual water company the North Torrance people will immediately organize and who will in turn agree to repay to the City the costs incurred in monthly payments, or, second method mentioned, the property on which the well is to be drilled to be deeded to the City and the City in turn sell the property to the parties concerned on a monthly payment basis.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Attorney, City Clerk and Mayor be authorized to take whatever steps are necessary, by contract, or otherwise, to relieve the emergency condition existing in the North Torrance area, which condition was brought about by collapse of the Crown Water Company, thereby cutting off the water supply of approximately sixteen residents of the area; that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles be advised of the contemplated action and be given assurance that water service will be available for the sixteen consumers by September 1, 1941. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, enclosing copy of resolution adopted by the Board on June 17, 1941, authorizing transfer of funds to the Interest and Sinking Funds of Acquisition and Improvement Districts Nos. 122 (Electric Street) and 213 (Prairie Avenue), Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Waleria Civic Organization, requesting installation of a boulevard stop at the intersection of Hawthorne Boulevard and Newton Street in Waleria and requesting that the white line on Newton Street from Hawthorne Boulevard to Pacific Coast Highway be repainted.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be referred to the Police Committee for recommendation. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Southwest District Highways Association, requesting attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Association June 26, 1941 at 6:30 P.M. at the Los Angeles Municipal Airport Cafe.

A communication was read from the International Derrick and Equipment Company, expressing appreciation for the use of the Torrance Municipal Park for a picnic held June 21, 1941 and commending park attendants for cooperation.

A communication, signed by Matilda S. Winters, Pearl Heller and Virginia McNally, was read, requesting that the enforcement of the two hour parking limit ordinance on El Prado from the alley adjacent 1210 El Prado to Border Avenue be discontinued, advising that business of the Erwin Hotel, the Roi Tan Hotel and the Roi Tan Cafe will be seriously affected if the ordinance is enforced.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the Police Department for investigation and recommendation. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication, signed by J. E. Livermore, Maurice Foreman and H. R. Thompson, was read, requesting removal of two eucalyptus trees located at (1) 1720 Watson Avenue and (2) 1716 Watson Avenue.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be referred to the Street Department. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Angelo Cecere, requesting permit to operate a lunch car on the grounds of the Southern Cooperative Cannery, 1916 Border Avenue, for a period of three or four months per year. He advised that he had complied with the Health Department regulations.

Mr. Bartlett advised that he had checked with the Health Department, and that Mr. Graham of the Health Department had recommended granting the permit, which, he advised, would require a business license fee of \$12.00 per annum.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of Mr. Cecere to operate a lunch car on the grounds of the Southern Cooperative Cannery, 1916 Border Avenue, be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

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A communication was read from the Southern California Edison Company Ltd., advising that on May 23, 1941 a sodium vapor lamp was installed at 190th Street at the entrance to the General Petroleum Corporation refinery, per request of the City. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Torrance Elementary Parent-Teacher Association, extending thanks for prompt attention received regarding the crossing guard. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Chamber of Commerce, advising that Mr. E. A. Martois of the E. A. Martois Company, Torrance, had reported the unsightly and hazardous condition existing due to weeds in the area north of the south City of Torrance limits.

Councilman Babcock moved that the matter be referred to the Street Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Scott R. Ludlow, tendering his resignation from the Library Board and the Planning Commission, effective June 30, 1941.

Left open pending appointment of someone to fill vacancy.

Clerk Bartlett presented the application of Walter A. Birchler for permit to sell fireworks at 23925 Narbonne Avenue. A recommendation by Chief McMaster that the application for permit be granted was attached.

Councilman Powell moved that the request be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented the application of Walter A. Birchler for permit to sell fireworks on the Northeast corner lot at Hawthorne Avenue and Highway 101, which permit Chief McMaster recommended be denied.

Clerk Bartlett presented the application of Lee and Burnam for permit to sell fireworks at 2203 Torrance Boulevard. A recommendation from Chief McMaster that the permit be granted was attached.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be granted, Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented the application of Miss Mary Copelino for permit to sell fireworks at Hawthorne Boulevard 200 ft. south of Redondo Beach Boulevard. A recommendation from Chief McMaster that the permit be granted was attached.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request be granted be granted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented the application of Kenneth Bishop for permit to sell fireworks at Highway 101 and Hawthorne Boulevard. A recommendation from Chief McMaster that the permit be denied was attached.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the permit be denied. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented the application of Mrs. Ray Bristow for permit to sell fireworks on the west side of Torrance, Lomita boundary line on 101 Highway. A recommendation from Chief McMaster that the permit be denied was attached.

Councilman Powell moved that the request be denied. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Herald, enclosing

contract for printing of legal notices as required by law for the 1941-42 fiscal year, and requesting renewal thereof.

Councilman Murray moved that the communication and contract be referred to the City Council to consider when the balance of the contracts for the 1941-42 fiscal year are renewed, Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1455

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING FINAL ORDER IN CONDEMNATION IN SUPERIOR COURT ACTION NO. 455374 AND DIRECTING THAT SAME BE RECORDED.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1455 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1456

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING EASEMENT DEED FROM CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNERS FOR STREET AND HIGHWAY PURPOSES.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1456 be adopted. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1457

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING DEED FROM COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COVERING CERTAIN TAX-DEEDED PROPERTIES IN SAID CITY OF TORRANCE AND AUTHORIZING RECORDING OF SAME.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1457 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from A. H. Bartlett, City Clerk of the City of Torrance, handing to the City Council petitions (38) seeking the recall of Councilmen Lawrence V. Babcock, John V. Murray and George V. Powell. The petitions, together with the Clerk's Certificate showing result of examination of recall petition, were placed on the Council Table.

Councilman Murray moved that July 29, 1941 be designated as Election Day.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1458

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ORDERING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO DETERMINE WHETHER OFFICERS SOUGHT TO BE RECALLED SHALL BE RECALLED.

Resolution 1458 set July 29, 1941 as date for holding a Special Election to determine whether the voters will recall the officers sought to be recalled, the date being unanimously agreed upon.

Councilman Murray moved that Resolution No. 1458 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire read Section 11114 of the Elections Code of the State of California.

Engineer Jain asked what should be done about the numerous requests which his office has received from persons who are contemplating building in the near future for permission to live in their trailers temporarily. The trailers to be parked on their own property; until such time as their homes can be completed. He stated that the City of Torrance has in effect an ordinance specifically prohibiting this practice, although, he said, there are several instances where people have been living in trailers for some time and were apparently doing so before passage of the ordinance, or who have been granted permission to do so by someone since the ordinance went into effect, without regard for the ordinance. He said the ones living in trailers at the present time have complied in all respects with the health regulations, but that it will be practically impossible to effectively enforce the ordinance to the extent of denying the current requests without first compelling the present trailer tenants to either move out of the trailers, or move the trailers into registered camp trailers, there being one such camp in the City of Torrance.

During the ensuing discussion, it seemed to be the opinion of the entire Council, which opinion was upheld by Attorney McCall, that, inasmuch as an ordinance is in effect prohibiting living in trailers except where the trailers are parked in trailer camps, the City has no alternative except to enforce the ordinance.

It was finally decided that the entire Council should meet for discussion of this matter, and that in the meantime, the present trailer ordinance should be enforced. It was suggested by Councilman Murray that it be ascertained what other cities are doing about this problem.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$985.00 be made for purchase of a Pontiac sedan for the Police Department, which allows a trade-in of \$228.86 for the used Pontiac. (List price, \$1213.86). To be paid from 1941-42 budget. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$592.00 be made for purchase of a Chevrolet Deluxe Sport Sedan for the Police Department, which allows a trade-in of \$534.92 for the used Chevrolet. (List price, \$1126.92). To be paid from the 1941-42 budget. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell presented and read a recommendation from Fire Chief McMaster that the fire hydrant now located at the southeast corner of Hawthorne Boulevard and 242nd Street be moved and installed in the park on the west side of Hawthorne Boulevard.

Councilman Powell moved that Mr. Quandt of the Quandt Pumping Station in Walteria be authorized to move the fire hydrant

as recommended above by Fire Chief McMaster, Mr. Quandt to be requested to move the hydrant without cost to the City with the provision that the City authorize payment of Mr. Quandt's bill of January 7, 1941 in the amount of \$85.86. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell read a recommendation from Fire Chief McMaster that the salary of Neil Whitney be increased from \$145.00 per month to \$155.00 per month, due to the fact that Mr. Whitney has passed his second six months probationary period as engineer for the Fire Department, said increase to become effective July 1, 1941.

Councilman Powell moved that Chief McMaster's recommendation that the salary of Neil Whitney be increased to \$155.00 effective July 1, 1941 be complied with. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell presented and read a recommendation from Chief of Police Stroh that Adrian Thornberry be appointed as a Patrolman for the Police Department, effective July 1, 1941.

Councilman Powell moved that the recommendation of Chief Stroh to appoint Adrian Thornberry as a Patrolman for the Police Department, effective July 1, 1941, be complied with. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

****Para. omitted, See p. 75****

Councilman Powell read a communication from Chief of Police Stroh, in which Chief Stroh requested permission to appoint from the civil service eligible list one man to serve during vacation periods.

Councilman Powell moved that Chief Stroh's request for permission to appoint from the civil service eligible list one man to serve during vacation periods be granted. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell handed Clerk Bartlett the following resolution, which was read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1459

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING SMALL CLAIMS
DIVISION OF THE TORRANCE CITY COURT.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1459 be adopted. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Prior to the roll call on the above motion, Councilman Hitchcock asked Attorney McCall if the procedure is legal and in order, Attorney McCall's answer being in the affirmative.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$300.00 be made to convert a trailer into a lowbed trailer, pneumatic wheels, to transport the tractor for the Street Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

*** Councilman Powell read a recommendation from Chief of Police Stroh that Karl Frieberg be appointed as a Patrolman for the Police Department, effective July 1, 1941, in place of H. E. Garner, now serving in the United States Army. Omitted from page 74

Councilman Powell moved that the recommendation from Chief Stroh to appoint Karl Frieberg as a Patrolman for the Police Department, effective July 1, 1941 be complied with. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None. *****

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$145.00 be made for purchase of culvert pipe for installation at Lewellyn and Engracia Streets. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Murray requested that something be done to relieve the dusty condition of Plaza del Amo Street. Engineer Jain advised that sprinkling of the street has been ordered, and that rock-ing and oiling of the street is being delayed until after the work on the new subdivision adjacent the street is done.

Councilman Powell reported that the Santa Fe Railway Company right of way on Madrid Avenue between Carson Street and Torrance Boulevard is in an unsightly condition because of the weeds and moved that Clerk Bartlett be instructed to write a letter to the Santa Fe Railway Company requesting that the weeds be cleaned from the right of way. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Engineer Jain reported that a search into the records had revealed that it will be necessary for the Santa Fe Railway Company to acquire a quitclaim from the Dominguez Land Company before the Santa Fe can give the City of Torrance a deed to their right of way.

Mayor McGuire moved that a transfer of \$12,385.00 can be made from the surplus funds of the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 to the City of Torrance General Fund for payment of two busses which are in service on the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Caruthers from Waleria stated that a number of requests for various improvements had been submitted by the Waleria Civic Organization but that the organization had heard nothing about them, or been informed what action had been taken. He requested that the Waleria Civic Organization be informed of any action taken upon requests submitted.

Mr. Caruthers was asked to make a list of all requests which have been submitted, and upon which action has not been taken, which will be checked by the City Clerk, the Clerk to advise Mr. Caruthers of findings.

Mr. Caruthers advised that, in connection with the Waleria Civic Organization's request that the St. Helen's Company's gasoline trucks be requested not to park the trucks on the public highway while unloading gasoline, the matter had been handled very satisfactorily.

Chief Stroh said his investigation had disclosed that the

drivers of the trucks had been under the impression that, when the trucks were parked on the highway at the point in question, the entire width of the truck stands on property of St. Helen's Company. He said he and Engineer Jain would check the highway to see how far the private property of the gasoline company extends.

Mrs. Kent requested that oil trucks be prohibited from trucking on 220th street.

Mr. King asked that Plaza del Amo Street be improved from Arlington Avenue to Torrance Boulevard.

Mr. W. T. Klusman requested that Mr. C. J. Rambo, former City Auditor, be requested to meet with the Council and explain what the item carried on the Water Company ledger as "unclassified investment", in an amount of approximately \$135,000.00, represents and why it is set up on the books as "unclassified investment."

Clerk Bartlett was instructed to direct a letter to Mr. C. J. Rambo in compliance with Mr. Klusman's request. Mayor McGuire suggested that a copy of the letter be forwarded to Mr. Klusman for his record.

Mr. Klusman asked what had happened to the money represented as "unclassified" at the time the bonds were voted and a government grant was secured, remarking that "this man Rambo was supposed to have figured it out - I don't know, do you?"

Mr. Klusman asked for information regarding procedure to be followed in the Special Election set for July 29, 1941. He asked whether or not successors to the three councilmen sought to be recalled will be voted for at the same time the recall election is held. Mayor McGuire advised that it will be necessary to hold another election to elect successors if the three councilmen are recalled, according to the Elections Code of the State of California.

Mrs. Gonnor from North Torrance inquired about the approximate cost of an election. Clerk Bartlett replied that, as nearly as he could estimate, the recall election will cost \$1500.00.

Mr. Klusman asked why funds of the Water Department are being turned over to the City. Mayor McGuire informed him that the City is borrowing the money and will pay it back in due course.

Mr. Briney, former City Attorney, was introduced to the assemblage at this time and asked to speak, which request was complied with. Attorney McCall invited Mr. Briney to be seated at the Attorney's table beside him.

Clerk Bartlett reported that the President of the C. I. O. had requested by telephone today (June 24, 1941) that the City of Torrance destroy the letter submitted by the C. I. O. several months ago protesting purchase by the City of Ford busses, due to the fact that the Ford Company had since affiliated with the C. I. O.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:58 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Murray, the meeting adjourned to 5:00 P.M. June 26, 1941.

A. H. Bancroft
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

John F. McGuire
Mayor of the City of Torrance